

HANDLED VIA TALENT-
KEYHOLE CHANNELS
ONLY

30 March 1962
TCS-11663-62-KH
Copy No. 2.

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Technical Plans and Development Staff, NPIC

SUBJECT: Staff Study on Requirement for Comparators

1. The Problem

TID is in urgent need for two instruments to measure the horizon exposures on the KEYHOLE photography.

2. Facts

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a. The present instruments used for horizon measurements, namely the [redacted] are inadequate and lack sufficient accuracy.

b. Planned input schedules will greatly increase the volume of horizon measurements required.

3. Discussion of the Facts

a. The [redacted] are not precise measuring instruments and were never intended to be used as they have been used in TID. These instruments were originally in use in PAD and were pulled out in desperation and boot strapped into production use. The uses of these instruments in the past were justified by the fact that horizons obtained in the early missions were difficult to define so that the accuracy of these instruments was not a prime problem. With the excellent horizons obtained as a result of improvements made, as evidenced in the last mission, it is now impossible to tolerate the poor measuring capabilities of the [redacted]

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b. The increased volume of photography scheduled makes it mandatory to consider instruments with increased accuracy, capability and operator comfort. It may be noted that measuring horizons day after day is a very exhausting task. The

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stereoscopic capability of the KH-4 system demands refinement in the attitude parameters of both cameras, necessitating horizon measurements not only on the forward but also on the aft cameras.

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e. The problem that TID is confronted with has been discussed with [] TR&DS. Of several comparators investigated, one manufactured by the [] best fulfills TID requirements. This instrument is of proven reliability and can be delivered on a timely basis.

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4. Recommendations

It is recommended that two [] comparators satisfying TID requirements be purchased. The price of the comparators, as outlined in the proposal from [], would be [] each with delivery of the 1st unit 30 days from receipt of purchase order number and the second unit in approximately 60 days.

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Chief, Technical Intelligence Division

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